

January

Magic Lantern Society

NEWS 2018

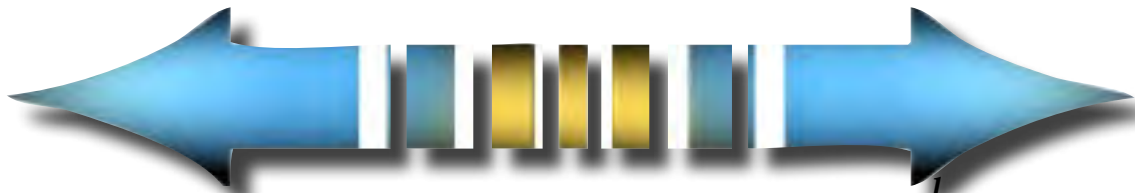


May the New Year Bring New and Happy Images

LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

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Roll Over arrow Left and Right



18th International Convention 2018 April 20th to 22nd Victoria BC, Canada



The Inn at Laurel Point

It come to our attention that one or two people have booked places at the Inn at Laurel Point for the Convention through booking agencies such

as Expedia. Unfortunately this means that those rooms will not be in the block reserved for the Magic Lantern Society and will not have the window views our block has, besides probably costing a bit more than our special rate negotiated with the hotel. It is encouraged to book using the link provided for the purpose to get the best value for money.

There is a special booking link for our delegates. Please click on below:

<https://reservations.traveldick.com/12209?groupID=2027681>

or you can contact
Cheri Koohtow, CMP
Events Coordinator
Inn at Laurel Point
Local Number: (250) 414-6733
Toll Free Number: (800) 663-7667

Dick Balzer Passing

From Patti Bellinger

I write to you today with a heavy heart to let you know that my beloved husband, Richard "Dick" Balzer, father of Julie and Matthew, stepfather to Jordan and Isabella, passed away on Sunday evening, December 3, 2017, loved and comforted by his four wonderful children and by me..

Dick beat back the cancers that beset him for over two decades by living, living hungrily, vociferously, consuming books and films and work and travel all over the world as though he had not a moment to lose, which he did not. He packed more into his years on this earth than many of us will imagine, let alone experience. My heart is shredded to have lost my best friend, but still beats wildly to have basked in the glow of those devilish green eyes for as long as I did.

**A Special Memorial
for Dick will be in
the
February E-pub**

*more about magic lantern
world loss on page 4*

Presidents Corner

January 2018

Greetings fellow Members

With 2018 now upon us, bright and new, I wanted to take a few moments to reflect on the past year and look forward toward the future.

The closing months for 2017 were saddened on both sides of the Atlantic with the loss of two pillars of our Societies and the magic lantern world; Mervyn Heard and Dick Balzer. It is a great loss to all our members personally and professionally. We offer our deepest condolences to friends and families.

2018 holds much excitement and promise. For the first time ever, the Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada will hold a convention in, well, Canada! Thanks to our wonderful hosts Lesley and David Evans, it will be sure to be a grand time in a beautiful city, Victoria, BC. If you have not started travel plans, reserved your convention room, or registered, now is the time. Consult this or any recent epub for all the details. Be sure to come early or stay a few days after to enjoy this scenic part of the Pacific Northwest.

Our Secretary, David Evans continues receive new members and respond to many inquiries for information. Vice President Brian Rogers has offered to take over administration of our Facebook page; thanks for many years of initiating and administering our Facebook page by Sue Truman. Sue, with her first love of the art

of “crankies” realized she can no longer devote the time needed to our Facebook page; we look forward to our paths crossing again in the world of pre-cinema entertainment.

Larry Cederblom continues to produce a wonderful epub each month to help keep us connected; his creation is now seven years old for a total of 96 issues to date.

Our research publication, the Gazette, continues under the steady hand of Kentwood Wells who always welcomes articles for publication. Our formal publication, in addition to being provided for members, is subscribed to by the George Eastman House, San Diego State University, the College of Charleston John Rivers Communication Museum and the UCLA Arts Serials libraries.

Upcoming Society Anniversary: Our Society started after Joe and Alice Koch saw a magic lantern show by Bob Bishop in 1968, then were inspired at a 1977 Magic Lantern Society meeting in England, came back to the States and started writing letters to prospective members to form a Society on this side of the pond. They received positive responses in 1978 and the Society officially was founded January 1, 1979. This year we plan to issue a series of articles about the founding and early years of the Society in preparation of the Society’s 30th anniversary January 1, 2019. For you “old timers,” if you have ideas, photos, or memorabilia you would like to share, please pass them on.

As always, the volunteer efforts of past and current officers, editors, and members has kept our Society strong and made the Society’s remarkable history possible. If you have a way you would like to participate, just let us know. Volunteers are rarely turned away!

In closing, it is also time for Officer Nominations. It was startling to me to type the words 2018-2020 term of Officers on the nomination form. 2020 – really? I have been honored to serve as your President for four years and now my term limit is up. Please send your nominations to Past President Debbie Borton by the end of January. The nomination form is included with this e-pub or just email Debbie.

Keep sharing yours stories, questions, upcoming shows/events, and treasured finds with Larry for the e-pub, it is with this sharing that we all learn and grow.

If you wonder how you can be more involved and help with Society operations, just ask one of the officers. Help with maintaining the website, editing the epub, convention planning assistance, and reaching out to new and prospective members is always welcome.

Best wishes for a safe and happy 2018. May your lantern shine bright throughout the year!

Ron

My Slides

From Steve Ernst

stevese60@gmail.com

I have several hundred slides - mainly master artist works - they were found in the store room of a major university architecture building. Most what I have are Seestern Lichtbilder e.a. Seemann Leipzig.

Looking for ideas?

From David Evans

Dear Steve

If you could send me a few pictures we could put them on our next monthly E-Publication and see if any of our members have suggestions. Can try at least.

Regards

David Evans
Secretary-Treasurer
Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada

These are some in holders I'm experimenting with



From David Evans

Hello Steve

The holders would be fine for displaying the slides, but not for projecting them! Bear in

mind, though, that permanently displayed slides gradually bleach out due to ultra-violet radiation in sunlight (it seems that LED lights are even worse in this respect) so should be kept in the dark except when studying them. I haven't heard of that slide manufacturer before.

Regards

David Evans



Magic Lantern World Loss

To lose one close friend, Dick Balzer, in the magic lantern world is sad enough, but to lose two so close together is devastating.

'Professor' Mervyn Heard was not actually a professor, but he did have a PhD in magic lantern studies, but as he said himself, he didn't want to demote himself from Professor to Doctor! As well as being a wonderful showman he was a great researcher and scholar. He was the author of the book 'Phantasmagoria - The Secret Life of the Magic Lantern,' the definitive work on the subject. Mervyn was one of the first in Europe to reconstruct the Phantasmagoric horror shows and also was a leader in re-introducing 'pose' performances, in which the lantern's projected image appeared on the person of the performer. It was thanks to Mervyn that a battered suitcase of such slides was proved to have been used in the Folies Bergère in Paris in the late 19th Century. His last contribution in print was to the recently published book 'Death - a Graveside Companion', in which he contributed part of the chapter on Death as Amusement.

Mervyn performed his lantern shows all over the world to great acclaim. An actor, theatre director, he appeared totally at home on the stage. He was a past President of The Magic Lantern Society (UK) and contributed to many of their publications, including editing the E-Publication 'New Light on Old Media', which showcases the latest innovations in the field of projected images. A quiet, gentle man, a staunch personal friend, and a great loss to the magic lantern world. We extend our very sincere condolences to his wife, Jo, and to the rest of the family.

Lesley & David Evans

REQUEST FOR HELP

Possible Magic Lantern Presentation

From: Kasey Ross
c-kross@pa.gov

**Can You Help
Out Here!**

My name is Kasey Ross. I am the Education Coordinator at the Somerset Historical Center in Somerset, Pennsylvania. This year, the Center finished construction on a fully functional lime kiln that sits on the property. While researching lime and its uses, I came across magic lanterns that used lime light. For 2018, the Center is interested in presenting a lecture series. Currently, I am trying to compile a list of possible presenters that must be approved by our Board. I was wondering if someone within your society would be interested or offers lectures/presentations on magic lanterns lit by lime light. Please let me know.

Thank you,
Kasey Ross

From David Evans
Hello Kasey

I think we have one or two members in that area. I suggest we put your request in our next monthly E-publication. I think there's a good chance someone will be able to help

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans
Secretary-treasurer
Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada

My Lantern Slide Discovery

From: Robert Edelman
rae7578@gmail.com

I have what I think is a magic lantern slide of Wyatt Earp. any interest?
On left Earp photo circa 1880s. On right my lantern slide. What do u think?

Bob Edelman



From David Evans

Yes, same eyes etc. Looks highly probable!
Yes, we'll put it in our next monthly E-Publication (due out January 1st or thereabouts).

Thanks Bob.

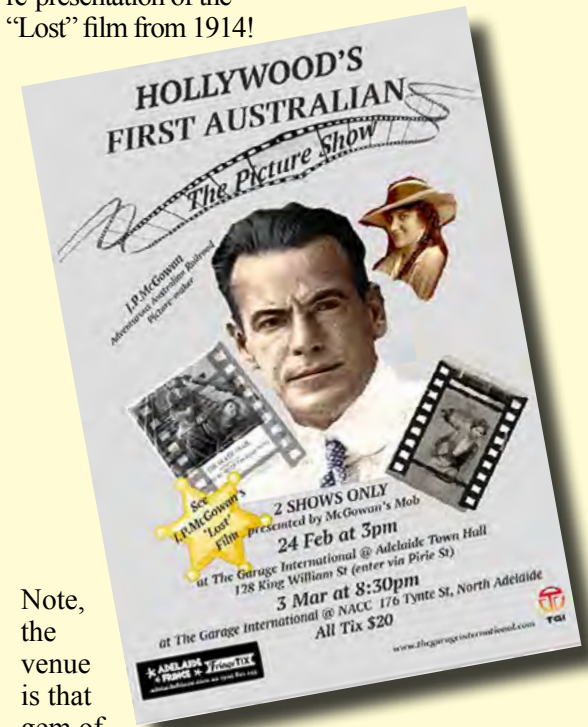
Regards
David

Hollywood's First Australian in Fringe 2018

From David Donaldson

Tell your friends and contacts please — McGowan's Mob ride again! The lad from Terowie! The railroad movie king!

Live performance with clips and images - and premiere re-presentation of the "Lost" film from 1914!



Note, the venue is that gem of old Adelaide, The Meeting Hall in behind the main Town Hall.

Link to page of description and ticket sales
<https://www.adelaidefringe.com.au/fringetix/hollywood-s-first-australian-the-picture-show-af2018>

The printed program book of The Fringe will come out on 6 January 2018.

Cheers David Donaldson

How I came to see the Lantern Light

Ron Easterday

My connection with Magic Lanterns goes back to my maternal Grandfather, Bill Drehs, who died when I was four years old.

My grandfather was born and raised in a very small rural town called Sassmansville, about 45 miles north-west of Philadelphia, PA, in Pennsylvania Dutch country. He taught German and mathematics in public school and spent time as assistant principal. Along the way he learned the art of photography and supplemented his modest income teaching nature studies and photography at a boy's camp in the summers.

He joined the army in WW-I and taught in the Photo Detachment in Ellington Field, TX, in what was the early days of aerial photography for the US Army Air Service.

He arrived in Europe just as WWI was ending as part of the 91st Aero Squadron, back in the days when aerial photography was sitting in the second seat of an open cockpit biplane using a hand-held or fixed camera taking photos of towns and infrastructure. He ended up stationed at the Coblentz Airdrome, Fort Kaiser, in Alexander, Germany. Early aerial photography also started Bill on a life-long interest in stereo photography.

In 1923, he took a leap and started his own camera shop and film developing, primary Leica camera dealer, he was very proud and knowledgeable of Leicas and was quite successful.

So, what about the magic lanterns? When I was 13 years old, my Grandmother and Aunt moved from the sprawling ranch home where my

Grandfather had spent his later years. My Mother, Father, Sister and I once again made the 400-mile trip from Columbus, OH to Reading, PA along the now familiar Pennsylvania Turnpike in our station wagon (remember station wagons?). We returned with a car full (and pulling a U-Haul trailer) of boxes from their expansive basement.

As a young teen and teenager I was left to my own devices much of the time for better and often, for worse. There were two large boxes with very interesting contents – obviously a projector of some type but with a large 3-wick kerosene lamp. With a nameplate of the M.C. Lilley Co, Columbus, OH - my hometown - the projector had returned to its roots. And slides of 3-inch diameter glass in heavy wooden frames with beautiful colored drawings. Other items included a small projector in pieces and one intact, in a wood box with German instructions and small glass strips. I had never seen anything like this and had no idea what these things were.



M.C. Lilley Lantern

But for a teenage boy, with a family history of photography (my father had a home darkroom, and believe me, between my Grandfather and Father,

our family was well photo-documented), what could be better than something that used kerosene and matches and projected colored images? Once a year or so I would get the projector out and fire it up, but could make no sense of the images. The M.C. Lilley wood box had a wonderful smell of old kerosene that I loved. Fortunately I was careful enough – or lucky enough – not to cause any harm to the projector, slides, or myself.

Why did my Grandfather have these things in his basement? Inquiries over the years to my Grandmother, Aunt, and mother revealed little but speculation – they knew nothing of them. My Grandfather sometimes took things in trade at his shop, even if not very valuable, just to be friendly or maybe help broker a deal. Sometimes men hard on their luck would go door to door in those days, trying to sell old things and my Grandfather was known to take kindly to those less fortunate, buying something he had no interest in to help them out. In later years when I researched the slides, my Grandfather had no apparent connection to the subject matter of any of the slides. No one knew for sure, but now they are mine to keep safe.

Jump forward to 1991, I was now married and living in the county outside Columbus. My mother moved to a 55 and over condominium and decided it was time for those boxes to go, so they ended up in my basement to be occasionally puzzled over.

Finally my wife Dorothy saw an article in a ladies magazine about the Magic Lantern

continued next page

How I came to see the Lantern Light continued

Society of the United States and Canada, with Jack Judson as president. A clue! These things were Magic Lanterns. We joined the Society in 1995. I enthusiastically read each Gazette but never dreamed of attending a convention or getting involved with this group of strangers. I recall at one point writing Jack Judson asking for more information about what I had describing the M.C. Lilley lantern and wood slides. Those that remember Jack will not be surprised that I got a phone call soon after asking I wanted to sell it all to him. But I declined just wanting to learn more about them first.

Then came the beginning of the end of life before Magic Lanterns with two fateful events the same year. First, in 1998 Dorothy and I both had an opportunity to move our professional careers to the Pacific Northwest and we jumped at the chance, eager to experience life beyond Ohio and Pennsylvania where we had spent our entire lives. Seattle seemed so exotic!

Second, in 1998 just three months before our move West, the Convention was hosted by Larry Rakow in Cleveland, near Dorothy's parents and just a couple hours' drive from us. Why not go and see what this magic lantern thing was all about?

What an experience! We'll never forget Homer Peabody and Damer Waddington performing their slide and vocal duet of Excelsior with ukulele accompaniment. Amelie Collins and John Vance with battery powered lanterns strapped to their chests dancing around the room. And just everything was new to us. I had never seen an unframed glass slide before and was surprised my wood mounts were in the minority. But it explained my Grandfather's wooden case that had

slots for both wood mounts and 3-1/4 x 4 slides. So much to learn!

We met many folks at that first convention that have become friends, even though we see each other just once every two years. And met many of the northwest members, our soon-to-be new home.

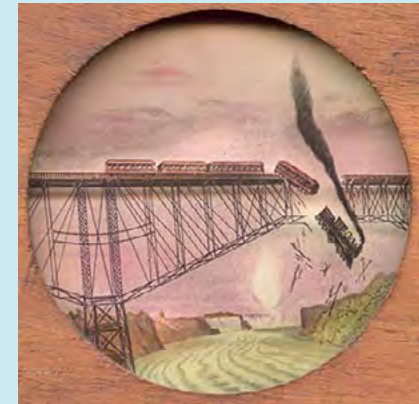
We moved and started attending the NW Corner meetings, enjoying the company and learning more all the time. But I still had not really done anything with the contents of those two boxes, now relocated 2,500 miles west to Poulsbo, WA.

I hate to admit, but it was my laziness to perform hand research and the availability of internet searching that finally got me going. What might have taken days-months-years of searching libraries now took an instant. This was in the late 1990's – early 2000's.

I researched the history of the Columbus Ohio based M.C. Lilley Company, the grand fraternal/secret society supply manufacturer of all sorts of wonderful and curious things and one of these days will write an article. The mysterious GAR slides were of course the Grand Army of the Republic- I had simply never heard of it. The battles and individuals portrayed on the slides could be researched in an instant at home so I developed an American Civil War show and started giving magic lantern performances at Civil War Reenactments.



GAR slides



Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen Slide

The other mysteries were the slides titled "B. of L.F." with the manufacturer of M.C. Lilley Company, Columbus, OH listed. With internet searching I now quickly found The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen (and later, Enginemen) fraternal organization. More history to research of early fraternal groups and steam railroading. The United Transportation Union (UTU) webpage had a wonderful 3-part history about beginnings of the B of LF (& E). An email to the UTU Secretary yielded a brief but helpful reply – check with Cornell University – they specialize in the history of labor relationships. So I found the Cornell School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Martin P. Catherwood Library, Kheel Center for Labor-Management Documentation & Archives. And the Kheel Center archives had their catalog on-line.

Then one of those fortunate occurrences – based on a single catalog number and email inquiry from across the county, a kindly researcher at the Kheel Center library went through what the catalog entry described only as "293 linear feet" of "bulletins, correspondence ... publications, and ephemera ..." and found a B of LF & E lodge book. She doubted it was what I

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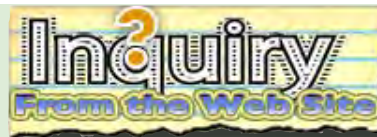
How I came to see the Lantern Light continued

was looking for, but might I be interested in a copy for a modest charge? Sure, why not, and in a couple weeks a copy of the Ritual of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen arrived at my door in Poulsbo. Blessings to researcher Barbara Morley wherever she now may be!

The chapter titled Emblematic Lecture was the reading for the wood mount slide set in my possession - it describes each slide exactly as I had them, with the reading and how it is to be performed by the Lodge Chaplain. Amazing. Cornell unknowingly had the reading, no slides; I had the slides, no reading. I sent high resolution scans of the slides now had an official Deed of Gift for donating to Cornell University on behalf of my late Grandfather. I thought that I hit the big time! In one of Bob Bishop's books he describes writing blind letters of inquiry as shooting arrows up into the air, never knowing where they might land and this sure felt like that.

So, there you have it. Like many of you, the world of Magic Lanterns has opened avenues of history and technology to research; a world of performances and collections I never would have dreamed existed. And we've meet so many wonderful, knowledgeable, and fascinating people along the way.

In memory of Ralph Shape, May your lantern shine brightly throughout the year.



From Yvonne McLaughlin

rrs1608@frontiernet.net

My husband and I have found a German Made Magic Lantern in the attic of an 1820's farmhouse we now own. It appears to have all the parts, and is in the original wooden box (box not in the greatest condition). There are 15 rectangular slides of various scenes and stories, and several hand painted single plates. I would love to know more about the Magic Lantern, and may be interested in selling it. I do have several pictures I could send. Looking forward to learning more!

From David Evans

Dear Yvonne

A great many magic lanterns were made in Germany, especially around the Nuremburg area, where metal work had been carried on since the 18th Century. Yes, please do send some pictures of it and the slides, and we may be able to identify the maker and approximate date of manufacture.

Thank you for contacting us.

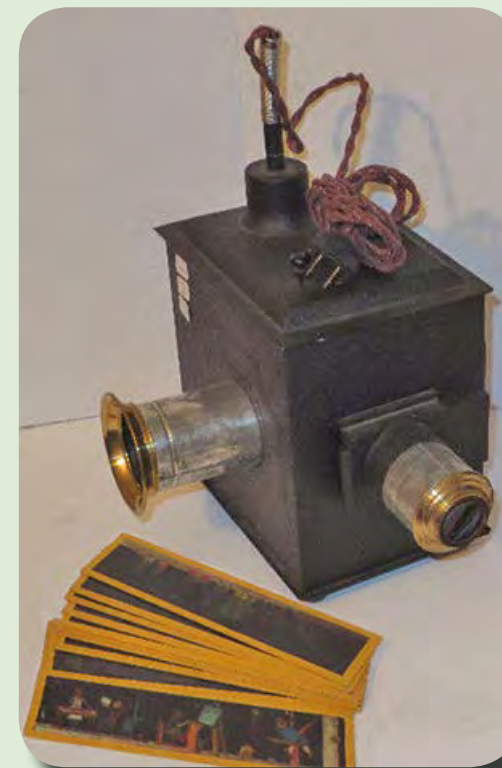
David Evans

Dear Cathy

Thank you for your enquiry.

Gebruder Bing of Nuremburg produced lanterns of this type from about 1900. It

German made Magic Lantern



is a combined magic lantern and postcard projector. Without seeing the inside it is hard to decide whether the electrical illuminant is original or not, as many lanterns were converted to electricity from oil lamp later on.

The slide you illustrate, perhaps of a home school session, is more interesting than many.

I hope this helps a bit.

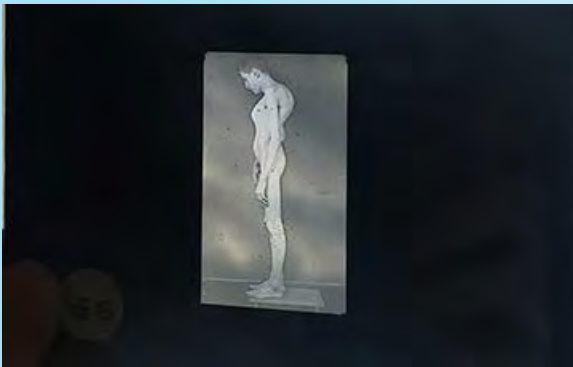
David Evans



From Gabe Rosen
gabewrosen@gmail.com

Hello Magic Lantern Society,
I am doing a class project right now in my history class about the history of disability in America. We've been doing some work in the Walter E. Fernald school in Waltham, MA. When we were in the school we found a box of what appears to be magic lantern slides. We want to know as much as we can about these to see if this is something worth pursuing. We have a bunch of pictures and we were just wondering if you could help us a little with any information you may have about these slides that we may not know about. We would really love your help! If you guys think you may be able to help please get in touch in with me and I can send you some pictures. Thank you so much!

Hi David,
Thanks for responding so quickly! The slides are 4 X 3.25 inches. I have attached some pictures of the slides as well as the box we found them in. Many of the slides have a label that says "Harvard Medical School - Neuropathology". In addition, many of them have hand writing on the labels that is hard



We Have Found Some Slides



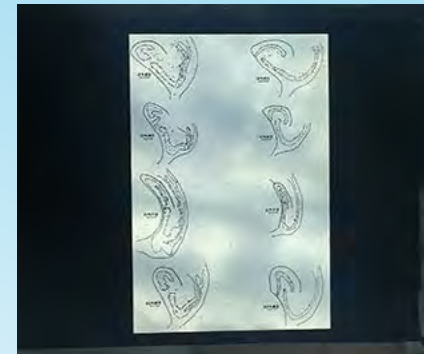
to make out but one of the words that appears a lot is hippocampus. All of them seem like they are images of the brain other than one which is a picture of a man with a curved spine. I've included that picture in the email as well. Anything help you guys can provide would be greatly appreciated.
Thanks again,
Gabe

From David Evans

Hi Gabe

They do seem very specialist. As I am sure you know, hippocampus is a part of the brain connected with the memory.

Do the slides have any indication of a manufacturer, or just Harvard Medical School? If just the latter, it would seem as if Harvard either produced them themselves or had them custom made by a slide maker. Either way they are most probably one-offs.



Since they are obviously photographs, they would date from 1890s onward. The size you mention is the standard American

slide format. Most probably they were used as part of lectures at the Medical School. There would have been accompanying notes, and it would be good if you could locate them in the School archives.

Good luck with the project!

Regards
David Evans

From Ron Easterday

Many medical educational slides were created. Our one long-time member, now deceased, Dr. Homer Peabody, collected medical related ML slides, among other topics. His collection is now at the San Diego State University Library, and you can easily find information on-line.

best regards,

Ron Easterday, President
Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada
magiclanternsociety.org
president@magiclanternsociety.org

Boston Public Library has Great ML Slide Images Posted

From Ron Easterday

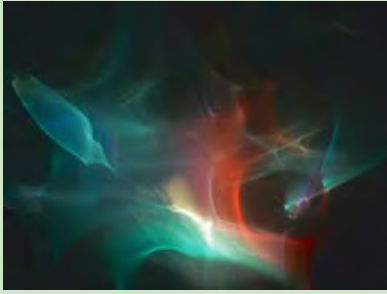
If you are interested in learning more about St. Mary's, the Boston Public Library has a Flickr page called Charlestown Lantern Slides with images of St. Mary's interior, repairs to the church, and a building fire. Scroll about three-quarters of the way down the page to view these images.

https://www.flickr.com/photos/boston_public_library/sets/72157622473902447/with/4016598361/



Lumia show at the Smithsonian in Washington DC

From Suzanne Wray



Thomas Wilfred, Lumia Suite

<https://americanart.si.edu/exhibitions/lumia>

Not Magic Lantern per se, but projected light: Lumia shows works by Thomas Wilfred at the Smithsonian American Art Museum until January 7, 2018. I missed this show at Yale, but saw it in Washington recently. Quite amazing-projected light/color. Not all the light compositions are visible at all times, as they are fragile. The compositions have "run times" from five minutes to approximately nine YEARS. One interesting piece resembled a zoetrope-mechanism rotating and projecting colored light on to the ceiling.

Worth seeing.

Best,
Suzanne



Thomas Wilfred Sitting at the Clavilux "Model E," about 1924

Glass Negative

From Tom Rall

From:
rockcityfilms@gmail.com
To: marketflea@aol.com

Tom,,
I am writing you on the advice of Hermione Sharpe at Sotheby's.

My name is William Davis, I live in West Orange, NJ. I make a hobby collecting glass negatives, and two weeks ago I found a 4" X 5" negative newly listed on Ebay which caught my eye. It was of a very distinguished looking Indian, with feathers in his hair. The seller did not seem to have any information about who the Indian or the photographer was, he obtained the negative from a Los Angeles newspaper archive which was purging its old files. I was able to purchase the negative and it is now in my possession.

A Google image search revealed the picture is of the Oglala Sioux Chief Rain in the Face, who fought at Little Bighorn and believes he killed Custer. The photographer was D. F. Barry. I have inquired at the Denver Public



Library, which holds Barry's archives, and at the American Indian Museum, neither have prints or negatives of this image. While this image was used by Barry to make Cabinet Cards in 1886, it seems that my negative may be the only one in existence. I am attaching a photo of the scanned image, are you aware of the existence of another copy of this negative?

William Davis
646-321-9251

From Tom

With William Davis permission, I am forwarding you this inquiry I received recently. We are curious if any members have seen lantern slides made from this negative, (or from other negatives by Barry)?

Thanks,
Tom
Manager
Antique Photo Show
1101 N Kentucky St
Arlington, VA 22205
703-534-8220

A Big Thank You to the following:

Terry Borton
David Donaldson
Ron Easterday
Robert Edelman
Steve Ernst
David & Lesley Evans
Yvonne McLaughlin
Tom Rall
Gabe Rosen
Kasey Ross
Kentwood Wells
Suzanne Wray

contributing to this months issue.

Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

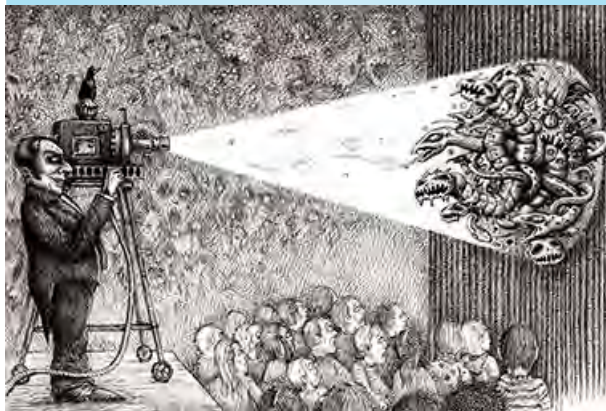
E-mail Larry



Mr Karswell's Magic Lantern Show

From Terry Borton

Here's a link to a weird ML Show pix.



Inspired by a passage in the M R James story Casting The Runes that captured my imagination..the sinister Mr Karswell shows a magic lantern show to a group of children which terrifies them.

I have made this drawing into a print which can be purchased here <http://boswellart.bigcartel.com/product/mr-karswell-s-magic-lantern-show-print>

https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-ab&biw=1280&bih=608&tbm=isch&sa=1&ei=KGQtWvzcGKWxggeKI4WwCQ&q=magic+lantern+show&oq=magic+lantern+show&gs_l=psy-ab.3..0j0i24k119.2651.6405.0.6813.18.15.0.3.3.0.106.1142.12j3.15.0....1c.1.64.psy-ab..0.18.1160...0i67k1j0i8i30k1j0i10i24k1.0.tV1vtX57R1k#imgsrc=1SAeB_Ajfk5GqM:

New Ph.D. Dissertation

From Kentwood Wells

A history of popular astronomy in Australia in the era of the lantern slide: 1825-1910



Author: Martin Bush

<https://researchbank.swinburne.edu.au/items/662530ab-7ccd-4887-b6e5-420187601e1b/1/>

Heavily illustrated article on stereoscopic photography:

Douglas M. Klahr, "Stereoscopic Architectural Photography and Merleau-Ponty's Phenomenology", ZARCH 9 (Diciembre 2017): 84-105.

http://dx.doi.org/10.26754/ojs_zarch/zarch.201792269